

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USOECD

E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: EGEN OECD
SUBJ: INTERFUTURES DEVELOPMENTS

1. THE JAPANESE HAVE PROPOSED VIA LETTER TO SEC GEN VAN
LENNEP THAT A PROGRESS REPORT ON INTERFUTURES BE PRE-
SENTED TO JUNE OECD MINISTERIAL. ACCORDING TO JAPANESE
DEL, PURPOSE OF SUCH A REPORT WOULD BE TWO-FOLD:

A) TO DRAW HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION TO INTERFUTURES
ITSELF, AND
B) TO PROVIDE JAPANESE WITH VEHICLE FOR UNDERLINING
THEIR INTEREST IN GREATER OECD ATTENTION TO LONGER-RANGE
ISSUES.

JAPANESE DO NOT ENVISAGE A DETAILED REPORT OR LENGTHY
MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF INTERFUTURES BUT RATHER A
CONCISE REPORT WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT REMIND MINISTERS
THAT INTERFUTURES EXISTS AND PERHAPS ELICIT SOME
POLITICAL IMPETUS TO FINAL PHASE OF PROJECT.

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2. IN INFORMING US OF THIS JAPANESE APPROACH, INTER-
FUTURES DIRECTOR LESOURNE INDICATED THAT JAPANESE WERE
NOW WILLING TO DROP THEIR INSISTENCE THAT INTERFUTURES
SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING BE HELD IN JUNE. LESOURNE
HIMSELF IS NOW CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO POST-
PONE SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING TO THE FALL, PARTLY
BECAUSE SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS HAVE AGAIN RUN BEHIND

SCHEDULE. JAPANESE CONFIRM THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO SEE SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING SLIP, ALTHOUGH THEY CONTINUE TO PREFER A JUNE MEETING.

3. BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION OF A LATE SEPTEMBER SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING, LESOURNE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE IN LATE MAY INSTEAD OF LATE APRIL AS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED. HE THINKS THIS WOULD PERMIT A MORE COMPLETE PRESENTATION OF THE TEAM'S SUBSTANTIVE PACKAGE FOR SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING. STEERING COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO GO OVER PROGRESS REPORT FOR MINISTERIAL. LESOURNE IS IN THE PROCESS OF CONTACTING STEERING COMMITTEE REPS ON THIS PROPOSITION. JAPANESE TELL US THAT THEY DO NOT YET HAVE CHAIRMAN MIYAZAKI'S VIEWS.

4. MISSION COMMENT: THE ABOVE PROPOSALS STRIKE US AS LOGICAL. ALTHOUGH WE WILL WANT TO CONSIDER VERY CAREFULLY CONTENTS AND MANNER OF PRESENTING A PROGRESS REPORT TO THE MINISTERIAL, WE SEE NO REASON FOR OBJECTING TO A PROPOSAL TO WHICH THE JAPANESE OBVIOUSLY ATTACH SOME IMPORTANCE. SUCH A REPORT COULD IN FACT HELP PROMOTE MORE EFFECTIVE AND FOCUSED WORK IN THE FINAL STAGE OF THE PROJECT. WE SEE LITTLE REASON TO HOLD AN APRIL STEERING COMMITTEE IF THE INTERFUTURES TEAM BY ITS OWN ADMISSION WILL NOT BE READY FOR IT. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT FEW (IF ANY) DRAFT PAPERS FOR SENIOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIALS MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE BY THE END OF MARCH. WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO APPLY HEAVY BILATERAL PRESSURE TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE DRAFT PAPERS FOR THE SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING ARE PREPARED BY THE END OF APRIL.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S REACTIONS TO THE ABOVE.
SALZMAN

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NNN

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